

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – AUGUST 18, 2004

Chairman Chris Dollar called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Approval for Minutes from July 2004 Meeting**

- July minutes were approved with changes. Commissioner Lamp wanted to change the July 21, 2004 minutes to reflect that the plan for a sharpshooter program on Sandy Point in the Fall followed by a bow hunting program in 2005-2006, was approved up to the Assistant Secretary's level. Commissioner Adams suggested changing the wording from sharpshooters to regulated shooting.

**Chesapeake Forest Lands (CFL) Update**

- Presentation by Steve Koehn, Forestry Service Director and John Wilson – senior planner with DNR
- Status of Hunting on CFL [Attachment A] by Steve Koehn.
  - 1) This document consists of talking points that Mr. Koehn presented to the Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC) on August 18, 2004.
  - 2) The Status of Hunting on CFL [Attachment B] provided an overview of the history of Chesapeake Forest, the shift of public hunting and the impact of the previous use of the forest by hunt clubs, current status of leased hunting program on Chesapeake Forest, and current status of opening up Chesapeake Forest to public hunting. A map of CFL Public Use Proposal was attached [Attachment C]. The chapter dealing with public use is being reviewed internally; this information will eventually be released for public comments. The goal is to finalize this effort by the end of the 2004 calendar year.
- The Governor's website has the signed sustainable forestry Executive Order on it. The Executive Order indicated that DNR will seek third party dual certification for forest sustainability on all workable state forest lands.
- The goal is to set-up a lottery process for the 15 tracks available for hunting lease agreements.
  - 1) At this time, the Department will renew hunting lease agreements for five years with a one-time 5-year option to renew.
  - 2) Commissioner Gregory suggested an annual lottery process for the 15 tracks available for hunting lease agreements.

**Finalize Selections of 2004-2005 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons**

- Power Point Presentation given by Game Bird Section Leader, Larry Hindman
- The August 17, 2004 Public Information Meeting on Late Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits [Attachment D] was held at Chesapeake College with 40 attendees present.
  - 1) The presentation highlighted 2004-2005 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons and comments from the public meeting. The comments received were favorable.
  - 2) Staff received favorable support on the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day, which is scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff received limited interest in having the youth hunt day earlier in the season.
  - 3) For the majority of discussion on the seasons, staff received favorable support.
  - 4) Favorable support was received on the AP Canada Goose Season; however, the Waterfowl Festival Committee from Easton recommended having the AP Canada Goose Season open on November 15<sup>th</sup>. If the Department would have complied with this request, the hunters would have lost a Saturday and some holiday days during December, which are important hunting days to our hunters and our youth hunters.
  - 5) Maryland Farm Bureau and Migratory Game Bird Committee are in support of the seasons that the Department proposed.
- Motion – A motion was made by Chairman Dollar to accept the recommendations presented to the Wildlife Advisory Commission. Commissioner Gregory seconded motion, five votes were in favor of the recommendations and one abstained. Motion passed.

**Presentation to Former Chairman Tim Lambert**

- Director Paul Peditto remarked on the remarkable efforts of Mr. Lambert and his tireless commitment to sound scientific wildlife management and hunting opportunities for all sportsmen and women.
  - 1) Mr. Lambert lobbied support to challenge and change one of Maryland's oldest laws prohibiting Sunday hunting. With the support of Mr. Lambert's efforts and the reasonable and compassionate hunters that testified on the Sunday Hunting bill, the Sunday Hunting Bill was repealed on the last day of the 2003 General Assembly Session.
  - 2) Currently, Mr. Lambert has taken on another challenge as the Legislative Coordinator for the MD. Bowhunter's Society.
  - 3) Director Peditto presented Mr. Lambert with a one of kind complete collection of Maryland Black Bear Conservation stamps.

### **Wildlife Heritage Fund**

- Presentation by Commissioner Lowell Adams, Former WAC Chairman Tim Lambert, Co-Chair of the Maryland Teaming with Wildlife Coalition Tom Franklin, and Associate Director of the Natural Heritage Program-Glenn Therres.
  - 1) Commissioner Adams handed out the draft December 11, 2001 The Maryland Wildlife Heritage Fund [Attachment E] for discussion.
  - 2) Mr. Tim Lambert shared with the group a scratch off lottery tickets from Maine in which the revenue is allocated to wildlife conservation [Attachment F].
    - (a) Mr. Lambert presented this idea to the Maryland Teaming With Wildlife Coalition as a means to provide additional funds.
    - (b) Mr. Tom Franklin was able to use the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF) program [Attachment G] and compiled concepts that could be adopted in Maryland to address the issue of lack of matching funds. For states to receive federal funds, the states would need to produce matching funds.
      - (i) A governing body would need to be set-up with representation from WAC, DNR, sportsmen associations, and conservationist entities to guide the allocations to DNR.
      - (ii) It would fund projects in three categories: wildlife conservation, education, and recreation.
      - (iii) Commissioners were able to visit Maine's website (<http://www.state.me.us/ifw/outdoorheritage/>) to obtain more information about MOHF.
  - 3) The presenters asked the Commission for their endorsement to support such a concept for Maryland before moving forward.
    - (a) Commissioner Lamp mentioned other concerns with Maine's program and stressed the need to attract the non-hunting community.
    - (b) Mr. Lambert pointed out that MSA did not present this because it was not a sportsmen issue. This program will be established "for the sole purpose of maintaining, improving and expanding state and local wildlife resource conservation programs and associated compatible public use." [Attachment E]
    - (c) Mark Hoffman, Associate Director of WHS Administration Program, offered assistance to make sure the concepts meet the current guidelines.
    - (d) Commissioner Adams suggested that the Commission should review the documents and moved to discuss this at the October meeting. Chairman Dollar agreed to add this subject to the October meeting.
    - (e) Commissioners discussed the concern of the political process and procedures.
    - (f) It is too late for this to be a departmental bill for the 2004-2005 Session; however, the concept could be presented by outside parties.
  - 4) Motion – A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough to adopt the general concept. Commissioner Adams seconded motion. Commissioners were in favor of the general concept. Motion passed.
    - (a) A final comment was made from Commissioner Scarborough cautioning members about making sure there is adequate cash flow where it is not robbing monies from another source. The Commissioners recommended a need for compiling demographic data on how many people would actually purchase a lottery ticket for wildlife conservation.

### **WHS Information & Education Program Update**

- Presentation by Karina Blizzard, Associate Director
- The Information & Education Program is charged with communicating to the public any wildlife and resources management.
- She outlined some of the activities that the Information & Education Program are involved in [Attachment H].

### **WHS Budget Update**

- Mark Hoffman is working on FY06 WHS budget.
- WHS is a self-sufficient unit; the money earned is spent to keep WHS in business. The unit has no general fund support in the FY 06 proposed budget.
- Commissioner Lamp mentioned in a handout from Commissioner Adams referencing the Wildlife Advisory Commission roles, which indicated that the Commissioners are able to convey the needs of the Wildlife and Heritage Service to the public and should do so.

### **State Forest & Park Service (SFPS) Update**

- Introduction of Steve McCoy, Chief of Interpretation and Education for SFPS.
- Karina Blizzard and Steve McCoy have been working hard to educate and provide the park rangers accurate information. The majority of the public visiting SFPS will ask park rangers questions, and as ambassadors they need to be well informed on DNR matters.

**Natural Resources Police Update**

- No Report

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update**

- No Report

**Old Business**

- No Report

**New Business**

- Commissioner Lamp presented to the Commissioners Gonzales' Poll Reveals Maryland Voters Oppose Bear Hunt [Attachment I].

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Attendance**

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| Members: | L. Adams, C. Dollar, R. Gregory, L. Julio, J. Lamp, J. M. Scarborough   |
| Guests:  | K. Fuchs, T. Franklin, T. Lambert   |
| Staff:   | B. Beyer, K. Blizzard, R. Charron, B. Harvey, M. Hoffman, B. King, S. Koehn, H. Lynch, S. McCoy, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, G. Therres, E. Wilson, J. Wilson |
| Absent:  | G. Fratz, R. Pascal, C. Garner  |